



NEWS RELEASE

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District: District 9, Bishop

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SLOW DOWN – WATCH FOR DEER

Department of Transportation District 9 Director Tom Hallenbeck cautions the traveling public to slow down and watch for deer. To reduce deer/vehicle accidents Caltrans identifies known deer migration crossings on State highways with warning signs. The vegetation along the sides of the roadway is mowed to increase the site distance of the driver. Also, new construction and rehabilitation projects include flattening of the slopes next to the roadway and the removal of bitter brush seed from the re-vegetation.

This summer, Caltrans will begin construction of the Sonora Wildlife Crossing Project in Mono County on US 395 near the junction of US 395 and SR 108 (Sonora Junction). The project will construct wildlife under crossings, and install 6 miles of wildlife exclusionary fencing on each side of the highway. It includes fisherman access gates and one way jump outs for wildlife. Together, Biologists from Caltrans and the Department of Fish & Game continue to study the habits of the deer population. This project will improve driver safety as well as deer safety.

Tips for avoiding deer on the road:

Stay alert, awake and sober. Watch for deer crossing and speed limit signs. Scan the road for deer, and slow down if you see one. Remember they often travel in groups. Use high beams at night in the absence of oncoming traffic. Adjust travel times, the majority of car-deer incidents happen during early morning hours (dawn) and early evening hours (dusk) especially in the spring when deer migrate to their summer feeding areas. Do not rely on deer whistles or other vehicle-mounted noise-making devices.

